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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/162,768	09/30/1998	HENDRICKS	9228

EXAMINER	
KOENIG	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2611	9

DATE MAILED:

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) JOHN HARROP (3) ANDREW FAILE
(2) SUNG KIM (4) ANDREW KOENIG

Date of Interview 10/9/02

Type: ☐ Telephonic ☐ Televideo Conference ☒ Personal (copy is given to ☐ applicant ☒ applicant's representative).

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, brief description: _____

Agreement ☒ was reached. ☐ was not reached.

Claim(s) discussed: 1, 144

Identification of prior art discussed: GRACZYK & PELKER OF RECORD

Description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: DISCUSSED


ATTACHED PROPOSAL AMENDMENT & MOTIVATION ON PAGE 3 OF
NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION (PAPER 7).

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments, if available, which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments which would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

☒ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview.

Unless the paragraph above has been checked to indicate to the contrary. A FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION IS NOT WAIVED AND MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an attachment to another form.


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EXAMINER INTERVIEW AGENDA

October 9, 2002 10:00am

Examiner A. Koenig

Fax: (703) 746-5748

Appl. S/N: 09/162,768

Title: AUDIO PROGRAM RECEPTION TERMINAL FOR TELEVISION DELIVERY
SYSTEM

Applicants: Hendricks et al.

Applicants' Representatives: Sung Kim, John Harrop

Proposed Amendments to the Claims:1. (Amended) A hardware upgrade for a set top terminal, the hardware upgrade comprising:

an interface to the terminal whereby subscriber selections and digital audio signals that represent audio programs may be received, wherein the digital audio signals are received from a television program delivery system;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal based on the subscriber selections.

23. (Twice Amended) A set top terminal comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive programs including audio programs;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including subscriber audio program selections; and

a first hardware upgrade, connected to receive the subscriber selections and digital audio signals that represent the audio programs, the first hardware upgrade comprising:

an interface to the terminal whereby the digital audio signals and subscriber selections may be received, wherein the digital audio signals are received from a television program delivery system;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal based on the subscriber selections.

37. (Amended) A system for delivery and reception of audio programs, the system comprising:

a television program delivery system adapted to deliver programs including audio programs; and

a set top terminal adapted to receive the programs from the television program delivery system, the terminal comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive the programs including the audio programs;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including subscriber audio program selections; and

a hardware upgrade, connected to receive the subscriber selections and digital audio signals that represent the audio programs, the hardware upgrade comprising:

an interface to the terminal whereby the digital audio signals and subscriber selections may be received;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal based on the subscriber selections.

45. (Amended) A method for receiving audio programs at a set top terminal capable of receiving audio/visual programs in addition to the audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented [an]by a digital audio signal only, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving digital audio signals that represent the audio programs, wherein the digital audio signals are received from a television program delivery system;

receiving subscriber selections;

selecting one of the digital audio signals using one or more of the subscriber selections;

processing the selected digital audio signal; and

outputting the processed audio signal.

62. (Amended) An apparatus capable of receiving audio/visual programs and audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented [an]by a digital audio signal only, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive the programs including audio programs represented by digital audio signals, wherein the digital audio signals are received from a television program delivery system;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including subscriber audio program selections;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the receiver, that processes the digital audio signals; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal based on the subscriber selections.

80. (Amended) An apparatus capable of receiving audio/visual programs and audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented [an]by a digital audio signal only, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving the programs including audio programs represented by digital audio signals, wherein the digital audio signals are received from a television program delivery system;

means for receiving subscriber inputs including subscriber audio program selections;

means, connected to the means for receiving programs, for processing the digital audio signals; and

means, connected to the means for processing, for outputting a selected audio signal based on the subscriber selections.

104. (Amended) A cable television set top terminal comprising:

a first hardware upgrade connected to the terminal, wherein the first hardware upgrade is capable of receiving digital audio signals from a television program delivery system; and

one or more additional hardware upgrades connected to the terminal.

110. (Amended) A system for delivery and reception of audio programs, the system comprising:

a television program delivery system adapted to deliver programs including audio programs and HDTV audio/visual programs; and

a set top terminal adapted to receive the programs from the television program delivery system, the terminal comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive the programs including the audio programs;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including subscriber audio program selections; and

a hardware upgrade, connected to receive the subscriber selections and digital audio signals that represent the audio programs, the hardware upgrade comprising:

an interface to the terminal whereby the digital audio signals and subscriber selections may be received;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal based on the subscriber selections.

118. (Amended) An apparatus capable of receiving audio/visual programs, including HDTV programs, and audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented [an]by a digital audio signal only, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive the programs including audio programs represented by digital audio signals, wherein the digital audio signals are received from a television program delivery system;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including subscriber audio program selections;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the receiver, that processes the digital audio signals; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal based on the subscriber selections.

144. (New) --A hardware upgrade for a set top terminal, the hardware upgrade remotely located from the set top terminal, the hardware upgrade comprising:

an interface to the terminal whereby subscriber selections and digital audio signals that represent audio programs may be received, wherein the digital audio signals are received from a television program delivery system, wherein the television program delivery system is capable of simultaneously transmitting video signals that are unrelated to the digital audio signals;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the processing circuitry allows access to the digital audio signals while the unrelated video signals are viewed on a television; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal based on the subscriber selections.--

145. (New) --The hardware upgrade of claim 144 further comprising a remote control unit, the remote control unit comprising inputs for entering the subscriber selections.--